THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) to (c) The assumption of the Hon'ble Member is not correct that there is a complete ban on recruitment of posts. A number of posts have been created in various Union Territories on the basis of guidelines issued by the Ministry of Finance with the approval of the competent authority after the ban order issued by the Ministry of Finance. There is no earmarked allocation to UTs for creation of posts. Union Territories obtain permission to utilise funds from one head of account to another head of account by way of re-appropreation if due to any unforeseen reasons the funds are not utilised in a particular head of account.

(d) Ministry of Finance have issued guidelines regarding proper utilisation of funds and manner of re-appropriation and the Union Territories have been following these instructions.

Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension cases

*237. SHRI M. S. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications for Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension sanctioned in the year 1985;

(b) the number of applications still pending;

(c) the number of applications received for pension from freedom-fighters who had gone under-ground; and

(d) the number of cases sanctioned and rejected till 31st March, 1986?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) to (d) During the year 1985, pension has been sanctioned in 5478 cases. 72.082 applications are pending finalisation due to various reasons as on 31st March, 1986. Category-wise records of applications are not maintained by the Ministry. Out of 4,36,568 applications received under Freedom Fighters Pension Scheme, 1972 and Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980, 1,38,352 cases have been sanctioned and 2,26,134 cases have been rejected due to various reasons till 31st March, 1986.

Individual forest plantation drive in Arunachal Pradesh

*238. SHRIMATI OMEM MOYONG DEORI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under consideration to encourage individual forest plantation drive in Arunachal Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI): (a) and (b) With the establishment of the National Wastelands Development Board, the afforestation programme in the country now lays major emphasis on people's involvement. The National Land Use and Wastelands Development Council in its first meeting on 6th February, 1986, *inter alia* took the following decisions in order to promote people's involvement:—

1. Seedlings should be raised through people's nurseries, i.e. kisans, schools, women and youth groups.

2. Farmers should be encouraged to plant saplings on their field bunds/farms.

3. Tree Growers' Cooperatives must be promoted.

4. A Tree Patta Scheme should be formulated for enabling the landless to raise trees on Government/community lands.